

CPYRGHT

**Jack Kofoed Says**

How Much Did Payoff To Castro Cost Us?

REP. Francis Ford of Michigan has asked that President Kennedy tell the real unvarnished story of the Bay of Pigs prisoner exchange. We've been fed a bushel and a peck of double talk about that. We were told our government would not, and could not, have anything to do with blackmail. If anything were done, the administration said, private citizens must do it, even though private citizens have no right to deal with a foreign government. Even the day before the prisoners arrived in Miami, Attorney James Donovan, who conducted negotiations, said not a dollar in cash would be handed the Big Barbudo, though citizens had arranged for 52 millions in food and medical supplies.

Donovan was negotiator. The president's brother, Attorney General Bobby Kennedy, pulled the strings. If that didn't make things official, please to explain, Mr. Moto, what would?

Pharmaceutical companies were told that if they'd kick in with tons of drugs, they could write off their generosity on income tax returns. Oil companies contributed cash, and what clean thinking American would even imagine oilmen gave thought to the coming battle in Congress over depletion allowances. You don't suppose individuals or private organizations could engineer those things, do you?

Pretense was maintained, even when it became obvious that it was a blatant lie, that the Kennedys were only sympathetic onlookers. Bobby didn't miss the religious angle. He telephoned Cardinal Cushing in Boston, which is the Kennedy voting address, and the Cardinal raised a million dollars among rich men of his, and the Kennedys' faith.

What individuals and corporations do is their own affair. What government officials do is another matter. They spend our tax dollars. How much was used to buy prisoners from

Castro ... how many dollars in taxes by pharmaceutical and oil companies won't be paid?

We are loaded to the eyebrows with phony statements. It's time Mr. Kennedy cleared the air. After all, this was his conscience fund for what happened at the Bay of Pigs. We, who'll have to pay a good part of the tab, want to be told just how many of our dollars went into that fund. That's what Rep. Ford is asking for.

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